

Contact:  
Landon Parks  
605 South 10<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite B131  
Lincoln, NE 68508  
(402) 441-8122  
[lparks@lancaster.ne.gov](mailto:lparks@lancaster.ne.gov)

## **LANCASTER COUNTY ADULT DRUG COURT RECEIVES NATIONAL RECOGNITION AS MENTOR COURT**

The Lancaster County Adult Drug Court has been named to the exclusive list of national mentor treatment courts by the National Association of Drug Court Professionals (NADCP) and the U.S. Department of Justice. To celebrate the distinction of joining 9 other mentor courts across the country, the Lancaster County Adult Drug Court will receive an award during a meeting of the Lancaster County Board of Commissioners scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, April 5, 2022, at 555 S. 10<sup>th</sup> St., Room 112, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

National mentor courts are exemplary treatment courts selected to serve a 3-year term as model programs to assist new or growing courts. Mentor courts follow evidence-based best practices and play a significant role in national training, technical assistance, and research efforts for the nearly 4,000 treatment courts that currently are operating nationwide.

As part of NADCP's mentor court network for 2022-2024, the Lancaster County Adult Drug Court will help develop, identify, and test national best practices and provide technical assistance to jurisdictions interested in implementing an adult drug treatment court, including hosting site visits by team members from other jurisdictions around the country.

"It is a great honor to recognize this court as one of only 10 mentor courts in the country," said NADCP Chief of Training and Research Carolyn Hardin. "This program is a shining example of how a combination of accountability and treatment can save lives, reunite families, and make the community safer. As a mentor court, this program is helping to transform our justice system and leading countless people who might otherwise be incarcerated into lives of long-term recovery."

The Lancaster County Adult Drug Court is administered through the Lancaster County Department of Community Corrections and the Lancaster County District Court. Established in June 2001, the Lancaster County Adult Drug Court has served over 1,000 individuals in the program and has positively impacted the lives of countless family members and friends of each participant, as well as the community at large.

The Lancaster County Adult Drug Court is a post-plea program that strives to promptly screen applicants using validated risk/need assessment tools and a structured screening process to determine eligibility. Completion of the program results in a graduation ceremony where all pending charges are dismissed, easing the strain on correctional services and the courts.

The Lancaster County Adult Drug Court targets high-risk/high-need individuals charged with nonviolent felony offenses whose substance use has led them into the criminal justice system. Program participants receive a highly structured, intensively supervised program individualized to address their specific behavioral health needs.

In partnership with the Lancaster County Attorney's Office, other alternatives to incarceration including General Diversion, Intensive Supervised Diversion, and Treatment Diversion are provided as separate tracks to applicants not in need of the highly structured programming of the Lancaster County Adult Drug Court. Other specialized programming options include Mental Health Diversion and Veterans' Treatment Diversion. To learn more, visit

[lancaster.ne.gov/192/Community-Corrections](http://lancaster.ne.gov/192/Community-Corrections).

NADCP's mentor court network is supported by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Office of Justice Programs, and the U.S. Department of Justice. To learn more, visit [ndci.org/resource/training/visit-a-mentor-court/](http://ndci.org/resource/training/visit-a-mentor-court/).

### **About NADCP**

NADCP is the premier training, membership, and advocacy organization for the treatment court model, which now includes nearly 4,000 programs found in every state and four territories of the United States. Since 1994, NADCP and its divisions—the National Drug Court Institute, the National Center for DWI Courts, and Justice For Vets—have trained hundreds of thousands of professionals spanning the legal, clinical, psychosocial, and law enforcement fields. NADCP regularly publishes cutting-edge, research-based materials, and the association works tirelessly to improve the response of the American justice system to people with substance use and mental health disorders. NADCP is a 501(c)(3) organization.

Established in 1859, Lancaster County is Nebraska's second most populated county. Home to the University of Nebraska – Lincoln, Lancaster County is a growing and dynamic community. In collaboration with the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County provides a variety of services for residents and has been nationally recognized for its cooperation and progressive attitude in service to residents. The mission of the Lancaster County Board is to provide sustainable governmental services for a healthy, safe, and diverse community.

For more information about Lancaster County please visit the website at [www.lancaster.ne.gov](http://www.lancaster.ne.gov) or call 402-441-7447.